

Portugal, Our Ally in the Great Crusade

WHY is Portugal at war and at war on our side? This question is admirably discussed and answered by a former Secretary of the British Legation at Lisbon in a volume of 342 pages just published by the Clarendon Press, Oxford, under the title of *Portugal, Old and New: An Historical Study*, by George Young. It is of special interest at the present time when the Portuguese troops on the Western Front in France have attracted attention and praise by reason of their dash and valor.

Americans for the most part probably know less about Portugal than they do about any other country of Western Europe, although it lies directly across the Atlantic, just opposite New York. The immigration from the Azores to New England has acquainted the people of Massachusetts to some extent with the seafaring population of insular Portugal; but comparatively few American travelers visit Continental Portugal, and Tokio is probably better known to our people than Lisbon. Most of us visualize it as a smaller edition of Spain, while in truth and in fact, as the lawyers say, "no two countrysides could be more unlike than the well-wooded, well-watered hills and valleys of coastal Portugal and the stony ridges and wide uplands of central Spain"; while "in type and temperament the Portuguese differ as widely from the Spaniards as do the Irish from the Scots, and something on the same lines."

Lusitania, America's Ally.

The area of Portugal (34,254 square miles) corresponds closely to that of the State of Indiana. Though deficient in grandeur, the scenery is remarkable for its variety, beauty and color. None of the mountain system exceeds in height the White Mountains of New Hampshire. No other country in Western Europe possesses so rich a flora as Portugal, one of the most distinctive types of vegetation being the forests of cork trees. Indeed, cork has long been one of the principal exports of Portugal. The other important products are wine, preserved fish, copper ore, olive oil, tobacco and wool. In 1900 the population was nearly 5,500,000, including in the enumeration the inhabitants of the Azores. The latest estimate of the strength of the army was about 32,000 men on a peace footing and upward of 175,000 in time of war. We have seen no official statement as to the numbers of the Portuguese expeditionary force now serving in France; but in some of the newspapers a Portuguese division of 25,000 men has been mentioned, and the record of their achievements has been most creditable.

It seems signally appropriate that the ancient Lusitania should participate in punishing the Government responsible for the sea murder committed by the destruction of the vessel of that name. "Those who knew the Portuguese," says Mr. Young, "had no difficulty in understanding their entry into the war; for there has always been in Portugal a strong sense of the solidarity of European culture or Christianity and a ready response to a summons for a crusade in its behalf."

The Unnecessary S. P. C. A.

The Portuguese are essentially a humane race. In no other Latin country are domestic and draught animals treated so well as in Portugal; and when the English residents proposed to organize a society for the prevention of cruelty to animals there the people were shocked that such an institution should be supposed to be needed in a land "where the farm animals seem to own the farm, where the draught animals are permitted to go where they please and as they please and where only the pig and dog are not petted, but merely politely ignored."

This essential humanity, according to

our author, and the national preference of the Portuguese for the charitable and chivalrous point of view have counted for much in the decision of the country to fight on the side of England and France. The fact that Portugal is a republic with a professorial President is not alone enough to explain its hostility to German militarism; but Portugal is at war against Germany "because the instinct both of national self-preservation and of national progress indicated that war on our side was the policy required by the national interest and the national ideal."

There have been less potent influences, of course, all leading in the same direction. A restoration of the Anglo-Portuguese Alliance was necessary for the protection of the country and its possessions. Portuguese finances needed aid which could only be obtained through the agency of a foreign loan. The group of "intellectuals" who constitute the Republican Government of Portugal naturally turn to France for inspiration and sympathy rather than to Germany, where the royalist opposition finds friends and favor. Finally, "the proclamation of the Allies of a crusade for the lesser nations appealed to the public opinion of this minor Power, whereas the mode of warfare of their opponents profoundly shocked the public sentiment of a humane people." The Prussian military ideals appealed only to a very small class of the conservative, clerical and capitalistic elements in Portuguese society; while the claim of the Entente Allies to be fighting for the liberties of Europe, including those of the minor nations, was hailed with enthusiasm by a large majority of the population.

In order to render the Portugal of the present day comprehensible to the reader, it is necessary that he should have some knowledge of Portugal in the past; and accordingly the author has devoted a considerable portion of his essay to a comparison between old Portugal and new Portugal. It is only to the historical student who has explored the remoter parts of the country himself that its immense antiquity is known; as when, in some of the "fearsome" districts of the great mountain barrier between Portugal and Spain, he encounters beehive hut dwellers dressed in skins and thus finds himself back in "the dim gray dawn of the world."

Roman Cart, Roman Plough.

In northern Portugal there are unmistakable traces of the domestic civilization of the Celt-Iberian race which was partially obliterated during the Roman domination of the country; and all the outward and more material features of Roman life are still visible. "We are here among a people whose civilization is still Roman. An ox cart comes creaking past carrying a rough wooden plough, just a forked piece of timber shod with an iron coulter on it, and both are Roman. The cart is a little oblong box on two solid wooden disks whose wooden ungreased axle as it turns bodily, keeps up an ear-piercing shriek. This not only serves to clear the narrow lane worn by centuries of use into a deep ditch, but also to keep away evil spirits who notoriously hate cart wheels almost as much as church bells." In motoring up the country from the railway terminus at Braga Mr. Young says that every jolt of the cart takes the traveller back at least fifty years!

Old Portugal became a full fledged nation in the reign of Afonso Henriques (1110-1185), whose name stands first in the list of Portuguese kings. He established the independence of the country by his crusades against the Moors, and thus freed himself from subjection to the Spanish crown. "The long reign of Afonso Henriques," says Mr. Young, "during which Portugal became a European State, shows very clearly all the elements already existing that afterward enter into the development of the nation. Some of these elements, such as those of chivalry and of the Church, were to decay and eventually disappear as material factors in modern Portugal, though they still exist morally. Others, such as the English Alliance and the aspiration for popular government, were to develop until they dominated the country's fortunes."

Prince Henry the Navigator.

Lisbon became the metropolis of Portugal during the reign of John I., surnamed "the Great," and its sudden growth as a commercial capital, continuing down through the second half of the fifteenth century, is declared to be only comparable

with that of New York during the second half of the nineteenth. John the Great married an Englishwoman, Philippa of Gaunt, and one of their sons, Henry the Navigator, has become known in history as the most famous character in the annals of Portugal. Our author attributes his ability and success largely to his English ancestry and the support of the strong English element then present in the Portuguese nationality. He describes Prince Henry as "that strange man, part mystic, part mathematician, part philosopher, part politician—the man who founded modern navigation, yet never sailed the seas himself; who could do the meanest things with the best motives; who lived silent and solitary, and yet was one of the most prominent personalities in the most brilliant metropolis of the period; who lived a monk and died a millionaire." He spent a fortune in founding and supporting a school of science and navigation, which laid the foundation of oceanic seamanship. The chief ambition of his life was to reach India by sea; but although he did not survive to witness that achievement, his captains had doubled Cape Bogador in 1434, Cape Verde in 1446 and discovered the Azores in 1431, all before his death in 1460. Mr. Young protests strongly against the English idea that this great student prince was a swashbuckling adventurer, and says he was no more of a swashbuckler than the

Old lady of Portugal,

Whose ideas were excessively nautical;
Who climbed up a tree
To examine the sea,
But vowed she would never leave Portugal.

Under the initial impulse due to the scientific imagination of Prince Henry the Navigator the colonial expansion of Portugal proceeded rapidly after the discovery of America by Columbus. The sphere of Portuguese influence eventually extended over Brazil, the largest country in South America, and vast territories were acquired in East and West Africa, while smaller but more important colonies were established in India and China. If we conceive of Greater Portugal as we conceive of Greater Britain as embracing the vast overseas settlements that have sprung from the home land we may realize that we have not adequately appreciated the part played by the little Iberian nation in the development of political geography.

Parliamentary government in Portugal began in 1826 and since then Republican tendencies have more and more prevailed. The monarchy fell with the murder of Carlos I. and the Crown Prince in February, 1908, and the flight of his successor Manuel II. to England on the occasion of the revolutionary outbreak at Lisbon in October, 1910. For nearly eight years Portugal has been a republic. There have thus far been three Presidents:

Theophilo Braga, 1910.
Manoel de Arriaga, 1911.
Theophilo Braga (ad interim), 1915.
Bernardino Machado, 1915.

It was extremely unfortunate for the Republicans of Portugal that they should seem to derive profit from an assassination which the whole civilized world condemned as a detestable crime. They were denounced as regicides even by those who sympathized most deeply with their cause, and the shadow of the tragedy will rest on the republic for many a year. Mr. Young, however, is inclined to absolve the Republican organization from complicity in the crime because its members were so obviously unprepared to deal with the crisis which it caused. All friends of Young Portugal will hope that his view is the correct one. The new government, according to our author, has accomplished an extraordinary feat "not only in wearing down or winning over its adversaries but in profiting by circumstances, so that it can to-day claim to have realized a reasonable proportion of its ideals." This he thinks could only be due to the sustaining force of a new national energy and enthusiasm—a veritable national renaissance—which has enabled the rulers of the republic to overthrow not only the periodical uprisings of the Royalists but also a formidable conspiracy to restore German control in Portugal.

Portuguese Presidents.

It is a remarkable and interesting fact that the Presidents of the Republic of Portugal have all been men of letters, belonging to a controversial school of literature known as the Coimbra school, from the university city of that name. The most eminent of these is Dr. Theophilo Braga, "a personality in whom an unusual combination of qualities has produced an exceptional capacity for national service." He is a philosopher, poet and student of folk lore, whose immense work, says the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, in the spheres of poetry, criticism and literary history cannot be judged at present. Dr. Bernardino Machado, former Prime Minister and now President, is a younger member of the Coimbra school, and their political leader, who is commended by Mr. Young for his unfailing courtesy, unchallenged character, and mastery of diplomacy. The third representative of the Coimbra school in the Presidency, Dr. Manoel de Arriaga, formerly taught mathematics at Coimbra and English at Lisbon. Portugal has certainly been a professorial republic thus far.

As the last words in Mr. Young's book were written the Portuguese division was landing in France. It has been heard from, and gloriously heard from, since then. This volume will give English and American readers a knowledge of their latest ally which cannot readily be acquired elsewhere. In the displays of foreign flags by which we celebrate the achievements of the allied armies in the field the flag of Portugal must not hereafter be forgotten.

PORTUGAL, OLD AND YOUNG. By GEORGE YOUNG. Oxford University Press. \$2.25.



E. K. MEANS

"We are inclined to think that Mr. Means will rank primus inter pares among those who have most perfectly preserved in literature memorials of a swiftly vanishing life. He has given us its humor, its pathos and its inimitable picturesqueness, without caricature and without malice, and he has so admirably balanced matter and manner that the reader never thinks that he is telling the story for the sake of the dialect, or that he is using the dialect for the sake of the story. The dialect would be perfect if there were no stories at all, and the stories would be irresistibly entertaining if there were no dialect at all."—*New York Tribune*.

E. K. MEANS

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